



Graphic by Jonas Miller

SEB Presents: Are You Smarter than a Faculty Member?

BY KATE PIERCE
News Editor

Do you think you have what it takes to outsmart a Saint Rose professor or faculty member? The Student Events Board is hosting a game-show event in which students and faculty can face off to a battle of trivia.

The idea for the contest came from and is based off of the popular game show, "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader," hosted by Jeff Foxworthy. On the show, games are played by a single contestant, who attempts to answer ten questions that come from elementary school textbooks.

"I thought it would be a super cool concept to involve faculty and staff members on campus for a similar type game to bridge communication between faculty and students," said Alexandra Gibson, a junior and organizer for the event. SEB sponsors and co-sponsors events on campus with the goal of bringing diverse events to the student population both on and off campus.

The competition is planned for 6 p.m. on Monday, March 27 in Saint Joseph's Auditorium. Student teams can sign up to compete by stopping by the SEB office in the Events and Athletics Center. Each team that signs up before March 24 will receive two raffle tickets for a raffle of a Yogibo bean bag chair.

The game will feature a variety of questions ranging from different categories in science to today's top music hits. Competing with the student teams will be two teams of staff as well as a faculty team.

"Unfortunately because of the snow day we had lost two members for the faculty team," said Gibson. "However, we are going through the top professors list that the students on campus had completed and will be picking from there."

Planning for the event began at the beginning of February, with committee members of SEB meeting every Wednesday at 5 p.m. in Midnight Eats.

"I want a take moment to thank my committee for everything that they've helped with this event and our past and future events," said Gibson. "Without these guys, events such as this would not be happening."

Snow Wreaks Havoc on Saint Rose

By JONAS MILLER
Co-Executive Editor

After the final flake fell, more than two feet of snow sat on the streets of Albany. It covered cars and steps and left many trapped in their homes, thinking "When will it end?"

The most recent storm, Stella, did more than immobilize half of New York State—it also royally screwed up the already tattered academic schedule for

many at the College of Saint Rose.

Sophomore Zoe McDonald fears she'll fall behind in one of her classes because of all the cancellations.

"I have a bio lab on Tuesdays that I'm now going to miss two weeks in a row because of advisement day which sucks, because those aren't easy to make up, like tests and quizzes are," McDonald said.

The storm also forced Mc-

Donald and many of her peers to dig out their vehicles once the snow had ceased. She said she spent about half an hour digging out her car, a relatively short amount of time given the 25 inches of snow that fell.

McDonald expressed her gratitude towards the Saint Rose facilities workers for quickly plowing the lot her car was in,

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Pine Hills Community Dinner Planned

"The point of the dinner is to allow neighbors to connect with one another"

By KATE PIERCE
News Editor

Living in the same neighborhood is one commonality. The Pine Hills Improvement Group is hosting a community dinner to help neighbors interact and find out what more they might have in common.

The neighborhood dinner is free and open to residents of the Midtown Pine Hills with food, activities, crafts, and live music. It is being held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22 in the First Lutheran Church. The entrance to the church is at 646 State Street, and parking is available in both nearby lots.

"The point of the dinner is to allow neighbors to connect with one another," said Carolyn Keefe, the organizer of the event. She is hoping for a turnout of over 100 neighbors.

The dinner is being catered by Healthy Cafe through donations by the SUNY Albany Student Association and the SUNY Albany All Greek Council. There will also be Halal food options available to suit the dietary needs of members of the neighborhood.

The Improvement Group is seeking to bring together the diverse group of residents, includ-

ing families, students, senior citizens, and more. The Pine Hills community is also home to a number of refugee families, who are also welcome to attend the dinner.

"Given what's going on in the news, we know that people are scared," said Keefe. "We want them to know that they are welcome and wanted here."

At the neighborhood dinner the Improvement Group hosted this time last year around 80 attendees helped to put together cards and letters for those serving in the armed forces.

This year the crafts portion of the dinner will consist of making and decorating of "Welcome" signs for refugees and refugee families that are living in the community. There are premade signs and materials to create new ones. All of the signs that are made at the dinner will be given to RISSE, the Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus.

The Damien Center, a local resource center that supports individuals and families living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, is also taking part in the neighborhood dinner.

"Living with AIDS can be very isolating," said Perry Junjulas, executive director for the

Damien Center. "Getting to know your neighbors is really important."

Junjulas also spoke of the divide that exists between "town and gown" neighbors, with families living among college students.

"A lot of times in neighborhoods we go 'Oh, those students...' and the students say 'Oh, those residents...,'" said Junjulas. "This is an opportunity to actually get to know each other."

Students that live in the neighborhood attend a variety of schools, including SUNY Albany, Saint Rose, Sage College, and Albany Medical College. Some of the students from UAlbany serve as off campus ambassadors, and are involved with the Pine Hills Neighborhood Association and the Improvement Group Committee.

Due to the large presence of the College of Saint Rose in the community, PHNA President Virginia Hammer says that she hopes to get more involvement from those students

"I would like to try and connect with student leaders at Saint Rose," said Keefe.

The Improvement Group also organizes days to clean up the neighborhood, and an

Counseling Center to Host Movie Screening

By JONAS MILLER
Co-Executive Editor

The Counseling center, in compliance with an order from the U.S. District Attorney's office, will hold a showing of "Chasing the Dragon" on Wednesday, March 29, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The film depicts tragic and realistic stories of those suffering from opioid drug addiction. The event is open to both the campus and local community. Following the movie, there will be a speaker who is currently in recovery from opioid addiction.

Alan Martell works at the College's Counseling Center, and he hopes the event will start a necessary conversation in the Saint Rose community.

"By now, everyone likely knows someone affected by drugs or alcohol," Martell said. "Our event seeks to educate and prevent anyone who may potentially be negatively affected by these drugs, legal or not."

In addition to the film and speaker, the Counseling center has arranged tabling opportunities for local providers and resources available to students and the community. Pizza and snacks will be provided and a raffling event will take place.

Martell and the rest of the counseling center have been trying to open the eyes of the campus to problems that are right under its nose, problems that are not limited to drug addiction.

He would like to remind the campus community that the counseling center offers a wide variety of services and welcomes students no matter their need.

event called "Meet, Munch, and More" in early September.

The event also offers free food, activities, and local resources. One of the large components of the event are presentations on fire safety, which is one of the only fire education programs in New York State that is held off of a school campus. Other presentations include various community groups and spokespeople from the Capital District Transportation Authority as well as the Albany Police Department.

"It helps to set the tone for the school year," said Keefe.

Moving forward, the Improvement Group is looking to continue advocacy for the betterment of the community and supporting businesses more. This includes a recent partnership with the Upstate Artists Guild to help "spice up the neighborhood," said Keefe.

Junjulas said that the community offered a lot of support in response to the fire that forced the Damien Center to relocate and work on creating a new space, and that it was invaluable to the Center.

"As neighbors we can do a lot to help each other," said Junjulas.

From the Dinner Table to the Classroom

Political Conversations Spill Over into the Educational Sphere, Leaving Some Feeling Overwhelmed

By **SERIAH SARGENTON**
Staff Writer

While encouraging students to talk about current political events may be beneficial to some, it can also make the classroom environment uncomfortable.

"I think it's important to talk about current events, however I don't think it should take up all of your teaching time," said Courtney Bernardo, a Saint Rose student.

Bernardo explained that for the first three weeks of her crime fiction class, the professor often brought Trump into the conversation even when there

was no relevance to the class lesson. For Bernardo, this type of conversation was more of a distraction than a way to help her understand the course.

To the majority of her peers and herself, the topic of Trump became irritating because they just wanted to talk about the class without getting into heated political debates, according to Bernardo.

"As long as it's relevant to the subject at hand, like in a political science, history, sociology, or ethics class, politics could easily be brought up and implemented very reasonably," said Dan Gauvin, a junior transfer student at Saint Rose. "However, in classes where it's not

relevant, like math and science courses, it's not an appropriate subject to bring up in class."

At a previous school Gauvin attended he experienced a similar situation to Bernardo where the professor chose a side and didn't mediate the political conversation. Gauvin believes that political conversations can be used to encourage students to have a discussion and debate on various topics, but if the professor is using their personal opinions and "throwing it around as fact" then it can be off-putting to any student who disagrees.

"If a professor wishes to encourage political discussion, they need to be impartial, and make sure everyone can voice

their opinions and thoughts in a polite and professional way," said Gauvin.

For another student, though, politics may be a difficult conversation, it is one that is needed.

"We are in such dire times and how so many different lives are affected by the current administration, it's a little inevitable to not have any sort of political commentary from the left, right, and in between," said Christina Romeo, an English major at Saint Rose.

As an English major, Romeo explained that literature reflects the time period in which it was written and so when politics are mentioned, it's usual-

ly relevant to the class. To her, there isn't a topic that cannot be political because even personal topics become politicized. Political conversation can change the direction of the classroom depending on the subject being taught.

"I personally believe that almost everything can be political or politicized, so there isn't an escape from it," said Romeo. "I do believe that students and professors have a role to be good ole questioning democratic citizens and look at the larger scope of their field in that sense. However, shouldn't it be like an added day in the syllabus."

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was it not for them it would have taken much longer.

The men and women of the facilities department kept up with the snow as best they could, plowing, shoveling, and snowblowing most of the campus throughout the day on Tuesday to make sure it was clear for the community.

They weren't the only department working hard on cam-

pus despite the storm.

Campus dining services fought through the storm to make sure the main dining hall was open all day for students and faculty on both snow days last week.

"Every time we have a storm it snowballs into different areas," said Rich Meigel, head of dining services.

The delivery schedule of feel behind, and some workers were unable to make it in, but

nevertheless, they persisted.

"This is the first time in a while we've had back-to-back snow days," Meigel said. "But we kept the dining hall open all the way through 8 o'clock."

This has been the most closures and delays the College has had in the last five years, according to Lisa Haley-Thompson.

"This certainly has been a snowy semester," she said.

Let's just hope it has a sunny end.

College Dodges a Bullet with "Tuition Cap" Rejection

By **JONAS MILLER**
Co-Executive Editor

The New York State Senate and Assembly majorities have rejected a proposed "tuition cap" for private and independent colleges. The provision that would punish independent, private, for-profit, and not-for-profit colleges if they raised their tuition prices was introduced by Governor Andrew Cuomo as a part of his Excelsior Scholarship initiative.

The proposed scholarship would grant free tuition to students who attend public institutions so long as their total annual family income falls below \$125,000. The rejection, announced on Friday morning, is a gigantic win for private and independent colleges across the state.

Institutions like the College of Saint Rose are already at risk of losing thousands of students to public schools if the Governor's budget passes as-is. If a tuition cap were imposed on top of the free tuition initiative, the consequences would have been catastrophic.

The now-nixed "ceiling" would cut state-aid funding from private and independent colleges if they fail to keep tuition increases under \$500 or

the Higher Education Price Index, whichever figure is greater. Schools who failed to comply would lose TAP funding, severely hindering some student's ability to afford going to pricier private institutions.

TAP, or the Tuition Assistance Program, is a grant that many students use to assist in the cost of higher education. Because it comes in the form of a grant, it does not need to be paid back, allowing for cost-effective assistance for students in need.

The President of the College, Carolyn J. Stefano, has been one of many voices in the private realm to suggest expanding the TAP program as an alternative to the proposed Excelsior Scholarship.

"We are pleased that the New York State assembly and Senate majorities have rejected the tuition increase cap that threatened financial penalties for students who could least afford them if their New York College of university raised tuition beyond a pre-set limit," Stefano said in an email sent to the Chronicle on Friday.

Last year, the College awarded more than \$34 million in institutional aid, according to Stefano. Approximately 99 percent of first-year students at Saint Rose receive financial aid.

"Fundamentally, the Governor, the Legislature, and public and private colleges and universities all share the same goal: to help more students enroll in New York's higher education institutions and graduate with less debt," Stefano said. "The solution needs to be comprehensive and student focused, not institution-focused."

Governor Cuomo has countered voices calling for expanded TAP by saying private and independent colleges would not be harmed by his proposed plan given that the capacity of state institutions would not change.

Stefano, accompanied by other higher education leaders across the state, say students should be able to make an unhindered decision on where they want to go to school. They should not be bogged down mentally by the idea of a certain institution's price tag.

"New York should make any new college tuition support available to eligible students, and then allow students and families to choose the type of college experience that is best for them," Stefano said. "We have an opportunity to make New York a leader in college affordability and accessibility if we can agree on and adopt a more inclusive, more comprehensive approach."

Two Perspectives on the Live-Action "Beauty and the Beast"

By **KAYLA ROYSTER**
Staff Writer

We all know of at least one Disney tale. Be that you've heard it, seen it, or read one yourself, these fairy tales have been around for as long as I can remember. The romantic tale of "Beauty and the Beast" is actually quite simple. A selfish prince gets cursed for being cold-hearted and turns into a beast, becoming as ugly on the outside as he is within. The only way to break this curse? Have someone see past his horrid exterior and fall for what lies within.

Being someone so Disney obsessed that they have their very own Disney-inspired tattoo, I could not wait for this movie. On Thursday, March 16, I saw the first release of the movie at the Atlas Theatre and I enjoyed it so much that I watched it again on Friday.

Granted, being a Disney lover, one may assume that I automatically have high hopes for the movie and even if it didn't meet my expectations, I would love it regardless. That's not the case with me, because I'm such a die-hard fan, I wanted the movie to be as accurate as possible. Which for me, meant that Emma Watson was not the perfect choice for Belle.

In the story of "Beauty and the Beast," Belle was a simple girl who was basically a wallflower. Watson is anything but that, she's known worldwide. Though I must say she made an amazing Belle, I felt that the movie would've been a lot more accurate had they discovered their own star.

Continuing the topic of Watson, the movie begins with her singing. Did anyone know she could even sing? She certainly isn't tone deaf, but unlike other

Disney movies, there is no singer that takes over Belle's singing parts. The voice acting is 100% Watson's. She has a kind and simple voice, nothing too amazing. At the start of the movie, my family and I were confused since it was nothing special. Upon the end of the movie, we had all accepted it and actually preferred her voice because after all, Belle was not a singer. In a sense, she was just like me. A dreamer with her head in books that she used to travel and a woman who wanted both romance and adventure of her own.

One of the things that I was the most worried about upon hearing that this movie was being created was the accurate representation of the part that magic played. The movie played out the fairytale perfectly even upon adding new ideas.

One of the most beautiful scenes was the dining scene in which the song, "Be Our Guest," is presented. The amount of details that went into the colors and the characters were beyond amazing. It contained so much going on at once to the point where you question how they were capable of doing it all. It's as if the exact vision of the fairy tale you heard as a child had come to life. Only this time, it was not a cartoon on a VHS tape. It was realistic, and it felt real.

The Beast himself was a perfect mixture of both attractive and scary. They didn't create him to look overly horrid and hairy yet, the parts in which he needed to portray mean and spiteful he did amazingly. Same goes for the scenes in which he played loving and affectionate. The appearance they created matched just who he was; easily angered yet kind. I even found myself more in love with the beast form

than the prince.

As I mentioned earlier, there were some new additions to this movie that were not in past movies or past readings of this fairy tale. For instance, there was no hag called Agatha in the former stories, and if there was one mentioned, this hag was definitely not the enchantress hidden in disguise. Belle's father certainly was never punched in the face and tied to a tree either. Not to mention, did any of us even know that Mrs. Potts and Cogsworth had significant others, or at least not that they were mentioned?

Some of the hardest movies to create are those that must represent long loved stories. They hold high expectations and are easy to fail upon creating a simple misrepresentation of just about anything. Even with the added ideas, unique castings, and in my opinion, beyond amazing graphics, I believe this movie did an amazing job. It's something for Disney to be proud of and I feel like will be around for years to come. I myself cannot wait to get it on DVD and am beyond excited still.

A great addition to this movie as well, are the jokes. Ones that are subtle yet still funny. Such as Belle's papa saying that apparently the penalty for picking a rose is to remain a prisoner forever (Ironic). As well as the fact that at the end of the movie, Belle jokes with the prince about growing a beard and in return the (changed) prince growls.

I advise everyone who wants to relive their childhood to watch this movie. As well as someone such as myself who just wants to feel as if that magical romance might exist, if only for two hours. After all this is a Disney movie and it's never too late to believe in magic.

Ed Sheeran's "Divide" Album Review

By **AARON KREIN**
Arts Editor

It's been two weeks since British singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran took the world by storm with his third studio album, "Divide." The set, following up "Plus" and "Multiply," became his second number-one album in the U.S. It's lead single, "Shape of You," became his first number-one hit on the Billboard Hot 100 and continues to dominate from the top spot. With a year that is molding to be his year, does the album withstand the long anticipation and hype?

The album opens with the upbeat in-your-face banger, "Eraser." It follows his troubles with fame, critics, envious friends and family, and the responsibilities of his platform. The guitar playing is the clear highlight of the track along with the razor-sharp rhymes. It plays as if it's a sequel to "You Need Me, I Don't Need You" from his first album and focuses on the aftermath of his success. It's definitely an abrasive yet fulfilling way to start a roller coaster of emotions journey that is "Divide."

The second track, "Castle on the Hill," was released as a buzz single simultaneously with "Shape of You." The song revolves around memories from his youth back from his hometown such as his first kiss and love. It's the kind of song you

which chronicles the reasons why he wants to spend the rest of his life with a girl he grew up with. The chorus adds sweetness to this tender ballad with insinuating that this girl looks "perfect" despite her not feeling that way. It's basically a well-written cross between One Direction's "What Makes You Beautiful" and Lionel Richie's "Endless Love." It's irresistibly charming and a testament to the appeal Sheeran has on his audience.

"Galway Girl" brings back the funk and rhymes to the album and focuses on an Irish girl he met one night at a bar. The track impressively mashes hip-hop with Irish folk music and has instant classic written all over it. His label should make this the next single as soon as possible. This is an example of a track that's upbeat, current, but still sounds like a Sheeran record.

The conflict of jealousy and acceptance of an ex moving on with another man with the moving tune, "Happier." Though Sheeran misses her and would take her back in seconds, he notices that she seems better with her new man and is willing to accept it. The lyrics harken to his debut album where he would use specific references to his life. It's emotional, honest, and a touching ode to those who want what's best for someone. It's reminiscent of tracks like Gwen Stefani's "Cool" and Taylor Swift's "Holy Ground," but has

By **JACKSON MURPHY**
Staff Writer

Disney's new live-action "Beauty and the Beast" is based directly on their 1991 animated classic - which I'm always proud to tell anyone and everyone who asks - is my ALL-TIME favorite film. Since the day, nearly three years ago, that the studio announced they were doing this new version, I've felt a combination of excitement and dread - hoping they would get it right - and fearing they wouldn't.

I have to say watching this movie was a unique experience - as I witnessed beloved characters, songs and the overall story of "Beauty" get twisted and distorted - in most cases, for no reason other than to be different. This version is an incredible 45 minutes longer than the original. I can understand maybe adding 10-15 minutes for new songs (which are actually quite good) and a few plot tweaks. But it's impossible not to take offense with director Bill Condon and the two screenwriters for drastically changing the structure of this story simply "to put a new stamp on it." To paraphrase Mrs. Potts: "There's something there that wasn't there before" - only it's A LOT of somethings. It's not a stretch to say that this "Beauty" is a completely new film, only with familiar characters and the traditional songs.

Disney's strategy of basing a live-action film on one of its own animated classics has worked - most recently with 2016's "The Jungle Book", which stuck much closer to the storyline of the source material (Mowgli, for example, doesn't time travel - As Belle and the Beast do here).

You shouldn't base a movie on an original and then screw with it as drastically as they've done here. Without going into Spoiler territory, let me just say: - The personalities and motivations of several key characters - Maurice, Gaston, LeFou - have been changed.

- Several key plot points - changed.

- There are new backstories and subplots that either feel too modern, forced or simply don't make a whole lot of sense.

- Even the climax of the film has been significantly altered.

The best scene in this new "Beauty" - and really the only

one that captures the spirit of the original, is the "Gaston" production number. Luke Evans (Gaston) and Josh Gad (LeFou) go all-out during this high-energy and genuinely good-hearted sequence. It feels like the animated movie brought to life. The rest of this film falls way short in comparison, as Condon is never able to capture the charm, joy and awe of the original, including in the very underwhelming "Be Our Guest" and ballroom sequences. Disney's 2015 live-action "Cinderella" featured a much more effective, breathtaking and elegant ballroom scene.

So, in comparison, this new "Beauty" is an epic fail in the most literal sense - in that it took on an epic cinematic work - and failed it - miserably. But, how does it work simply as a stand-alone film? Sadly, not much better. "Beauty and the Beast - 2.0" is very dark and intense, which will make it tough for younger kids to embrace. Ewan McGregor, as Lumiere, and Emma Thompson as Mrs. Potts give fine voice performances, but their CGI characters (along with most of the others) are borderline-creepy looking and not at all friendly.

There's also a mean-spiritedness in this movie that is unforgivable. There's more than one scene in which characters do things that are so "out of character" that the audience will gasp - and not in a good way. As for Emma Watson, she just doesn't have the on-screen presence (or voice) for this hefty role. You feel like you're watching Belle's little sister. It's the case of a casting that sounded great at the time, but, in retrospect, was a mistake.

Many people are passionate when it comes to complaining about and nitpicking modern remakes and re-interpretations, from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Hairspray" to "The Karate Kid" and "Total Recall". But the 1991 "Beauty and the Beast" is universally accepted as being in a class all its own - and therefore, it shouldn't have been screwed with. What Disney has done is make it impossible for anyone who loved the original to like this film and for everyone else, this movie is passable entertainment, but with a ton of problems.

more weight in its telling lyrics and delivery.

However, "New Man" tells his ex that he doesn't want to know about their new relationship since it's changed her so much. In the verses, he raps about what his ex's new boyfriend does that seems more impressive than what he can do. However, unlike tracks such as Swift's "You Belong with Me," he also lists the things that the new guy has changed about his ex. While I love the in-depth lyrics in the verses, the chorus is a bit underwhelming. Although, after a couple listens, it's not as frustrating to sit through. "New Man" is a decent track but fails in comparison to its predecessor and would've fared better in the bonus tracks.

Another ballad, "Hearts Don't Break Around Here," reiterates Sheeran's discovery of a perfect love. The country twang of the track makes its adorable lyrics charming, however, it's

another track that is either take it or leave it. At this point, Sheeran has so many songs with this topic that this one isn't as memorable.

Speaking on the endless problems in the world, Sheeran rants about his lack of education and importance as a musician on "What Do I Know?" It's a clever yet cheery anthem supporting the idea that "love can change the world in a moment," referencing a need for peace. It's like his sarcastic version of John Mayer's "Waiting On the World to Change."

The promotional single, "How Would You Feel (Paen)," tries to recreate the magic of "Thinking Out Loud" with its mid-tempo guitar strumming, delicate piano notes, and soulful vocals. It follows Sheeran wondering whether he should tell a girl that he loves her. It's the definition of endearing and the kind of track they would be playing as the token slow dance

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Garth and Trisha Rock Times Union Center

By LINDSAY MORAN
Contributing Writer

The Times Union Center filled its seats for the third consecutive night Sunday as concert-goers were entertained by longtime country artists Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood. The four-hour show showcased the talents of Brooks and Yearwood, as well as openers Karyn Rochelle and Chris Lane.

This show presented an interesting turn of events for me and my mother that made for some great photo opportunities and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We arrived at the venue a little earlier than usual to get a decent parking spot, as we knew the power couple had sold out all three shows over the course of the weekend. We entered the seating area via our designated section and realized we paid \$160 for a pair of seats situated approximately five rows from the back wall. We sat in our nosebleed seats, surrounded by the chairs of those who hadn't arrived yet. While we were laughing and cracking jokes about how unideal our circumstance was, a man approached us. He asked us how our night was going and, since it hadn't quite started at that point, we were confused. The man went on to explain to us that, as some people know, "small miracles" sometimes happen at Brooks' shows. We knew nothing about this, but we learned quickly after he reached into his pocket and handed us second-row tickets.

About 1,000 steps toward the stage later, we were surrounded by a group of excited fans who were also gifted floor seats by

Brooks and his crew, the Garth Guys. Fifty-somethings and teens alike were in awe that they had been given the opportunity to stand just feet away from Brooks, who earned more than 90 music awards over the course of his 28-year career.

Karyn Rochelle and Chris Lane each graced the stage to sing their own four-song sets before Brooks and Yearwood stole the show. Rochelle, a singer-songwriter from North Carolina, blessed the audience's ears with her soft and sweet country twang that complimented Brooks and Yearwood's styles. She performed original songs off her self-titled album, as well as songs she wrote with other country artists. She took the audience on a journey that began with a jealous-undertoned jam titled "Jezebels," and ended with the catchy better-off-without-you anthem, "Red High Heels," which she wrote with Kellie Pickler in 2006. Sections of the crowd left Rochelle with a standing ovation.

When Lane took the stage, teenage girls screamed and reached out their hands to touch the 32-year-old, who topped charts with his hit "Fix" last summer. His country-pop crossover feel, similar to that of Sam Hunt, appealed to the younger fans in the audience. He performed stripped-down acoustic covers of his own songs that are flooding the airwaves of country radio, among them being "For Her," a heart-felt, windows-down love song. He also performed a mash-up of covers that he features in every show, which included mid-2000's classics such as "Let Me Love

You" by R&B artist Mario, as well as "Can't Feel My Face" by The Weeknd. Though somewhat out of place at a classic country concert, Lane kept audiences engaged with a mid-set toast to law enforcement and soldiers.

Moments later, the deafening sounds of the young and old cheering on one of their most cherished country artists rang through the arena as the screen walls lifted and Brooks stood silently with his band. Brooks opened with his newest tune, "Lay Down and Dance," a modern spin on his old-school sound. He blew the audience away with his lungs of steel and agility, as he was literally sprinting and jumping around the stage and off its fixtures during his 29-song set. After a sectioned crowd cheering battle led by Brooks and his pointing finger, he played some of his classics, such as "The River," "Poppa Loved Momma," "Ain't Goin' Down ('Til the Sun Comes Up)," and "The Thunder Rolls," all of which he encouraged fans to sing along. The stage was equipped with bright lights of all colors, a large screen for those sitting in the back and behind the stage, offering the audience with just as beautiful a visual experience as it was pleasing to the ear.

Brooks' wife and fellow country superstar, Trisha Yearwood, joined him for a sentimental rendition of "In Another's Eyes." Yearwood's set left the audience wanting more of her effortlessly beautiful vocals, as she only sang five songs to cut the middle of her husband's lengthy, but enjoyable, showcase. She sang her 90's chart-toppers "XXX's and OOO's



Country superstar Garth Brooks performing during one of his three shows last weekend at the Times Union Center.

(An American Girl)" and "How Do I Live," before taking a look at the crowd and thanking them for their support. Yearwood spotted a sign that read "We are Katie and Tommy, and I'm in Love With the Boy," a parallel to her song "She's in Love With the Boy," which tells the story of a fictional romance between young lovers Katie and Tommy. Not only did Yearwood invite them on stage while she sang the dance-worthy song, but Brooks greeted Tommy with a beer and sent the couple off with a signed poster and one of Brooks' own guitars.

Brooks took fans down memory lane with a cover of Billy Joel's "Shameless," before performing the long-awaited "Friends in Low Places." The crowd roared with excitement as they held their drinks to the sky and wood arm-in-arm, shouting the words along with Brooks. He closed the show with "The Dance," an award-winning ballad that provided a proper

end to an action-packed show.

After taking a final bow and exiting stage right, he and his band returned for an encore within a minute's time. At this point in his shows, Brooks takes the time to read fan signs, some of which have requests for songs. He played snippets of well-known songs such as "Amarillo by Morning" by George Strait, "Piano Man" by Billy Joel and "I Told You So" by Randy Travis. What served as more of an extended set rather than an encore, Brooks admitted that the crowd better leave because he was ready to play all through the night. His finale, "Standing Outside the Fire," was a bookend to a show filled with Brooks' true passion for music, fun-loving energy, and appreciation for his fans. After coming out of a 15-year retirement to tour and promote the release his newest album, "Gunslinger," Brooks proved he's still got it and the fans still want it.

Lorde's "Green Light" Single Review

By KYLIE POWERS
Staff Writer

In case anybody wants to feel old, it's been three years since Lorde released her hit song "Royals" back in 2013. Yes, back a few years ago, the hit song seemed like an anomaly against the louder, noisier hits of 2013. That was the year of Macklemore and Ryan Lewis' "Thrift Shop," Lady Gaga's "Applause," Imagine Dragon's "Radioactive," and yes, the "Harlem Shake." Lorde's hits at the time, before she disappeared, were quiet and subdued compared to the baudier hits of that year. Her vocals were raw and unpolished. Her instrumentals cool and minimalist, and her music videos stark and simple. 2013, was in some ways, a year of flashiness on the music scene, full of exuberant energy. Lorde's hits off her album, "Pure Heroine," were a few deep breaths between the zeitgeist of other

flamboyant singers of that year like Miley Cyrus, Bruno Mars, Selena Gomez, even Taylor Swift, and so forth.

However, it's 2017 now, and boy, do we all know it. But now the tables have turned a bit. Not saying everyone listens to the radio anymore, not even like we possibly even did in 2013. But the top hits are quieter, slower, even a couple of them depressing. I mean, if Future has the second most popular song on Spotify and the chorus of the song is naming the opioid Percocet in every other line, I think it's safe to say pop music itself is hooked on downers.

Music tastes, at least when it comes to the top 40 and popular music, has become chillout music. There's a lot more piano and acoustic guitar, trap beats, with some high upbeat synthesizer-based anthems thrown in there thanks to acts like The Chainsmokers. I'm not saying whether that is a good or a bad

thing, but I will notice the same dreary sound, specifically songs about breakups are boring to listeners like me. For example, I really like Adele, but there was a point "Hello" simply put me to sleep. I roll my eyes when I hear the lackluster "Cold" by Maroon 5, especially when I think about their "Songs About Jane" days. The worst offender in the boring, uninspired list of dour pop hits is "i hate u, i love u" by gnash and Olivia O'Brien. That track makes me both annoyed at the lack of effort put into the song and drowsy at the same time.

Now, with the return of Lorde, does she join the calm, collected atmosphere? Drop another minimalist, calming single to join the slew of piano ballads and trap inspired songs? Actually, no. With her new song, "Green Light," she's done the opposite, releasing an upbeat, dance ready single about a breakup with a few twists thrown in.

I became a fan of Lorde when I started exploring her "Pure Heroine" album in 2013 after hearing "Team" and "Royals." My friend group in high school were fans of the album as well. I liked her specifically because she's relatable to my friends and myself. She had songs, although they were cryptic at times, that were about teenage experiences. She took digs at pop culture's obsession with money and fame in "Royals," of course. "400 Lux" is about a teenage date picking her up and buying her orange juice. "Ribs" is about the fear of becoming an adult, but enjoying time with friends in high school. "The Love Club" is about the pressures of dealing high school cliques.

Yes, she could be pretentious at times, her dance moves and music videos remain a bit strange, but she was different, not another Katy Perry or Kesha. Since she wasn't releasing music since 2013, fans wondered what happened to her, where would she end up fitting in pop culture down the road. But when we think about artists we listen to that become iconic or substantive in pop culture, they usually do two things. They stand out to other music of their time, and they evolve.

Lorde's "Green Light" has proved she has done both. Amidst all these slow moving pop songs, she has released a surprising yet honest breakup song that you can dance and celebrate to. At first, it begins undoubtedly awkward on first listen, as she bitterly describes doing her makeup, going to bars alone without her ex. The way she delivers her syllables when she sings, and the fact her verses don't always rhyme can be a bit jarring. There is venom in her voice as she delivers a line about her ex telling their new girlfriend they love the beach when she knows they do not. But just under a minute, the piano riff begins to speed up, with a beat from a drop that is undeniably energetic.

Once you get to the chorus, you can't help but feel the exuberance. The green light she speaks of can be anything, but quite possibly it's the green light to move on. Maybe it's chasing a new life after a breakup, and she's speeding down the road, getting ready to start a new part of her life. As the piano becomes infectiously upbeat and

the drums get louder by the end of the second verse, it becomes apparent this shiny, optimistic tune has some tinges of Lorde's friend, Taylor Swift, in her "1989" era and maybe a bit of Icona Pop in the chorus.

Overall, why I wanted to praise this track so much is because it has "bite." It is a pop song with flavor and an intricate narrative. And, it's a breakup song that is triumphant, without preaching that the artist is better than the ex or that they could find a substitute to their ex within a week. She expresses she wants to let go of the past relationship, but she isn't whining about it, nor completely bashing her ex, although she is still upset at them. Lorde shows a maturity and complexity of emotions in songwriting while still creating a fun, interesting pop track. She keeps her standard poise that she carried over from "Pure Heroine," while delivering a punch in the gut of pop music.

With many people starting 2017 tense and unhappy, it's time for a lively, explosive pop song. With her new album, I am curious to see where she is going to evolve with her music.

You may not be a fan of Lorde even after this past single. Maybe she's still the creepy goth-looking girl who sang "Royals" a few years back. Maybe, if you're a fan like me, you're excited to see her next move. I admit her style of music isn't for everyone. But I dare you to listen to this track and then play something like "i hate u i love u" afterwards, and check and see which song gets you to smile more.

When Can Americans Trust the President?



White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer at the Conservative Political Action Conference in February

By TAYLOR FARNSWORTH
Staff Writer

White House Press Secretary, Sean Spicer, continues to fall victim to the Press. After a series of tweets by President Trump accusing Barack Obama of "wiretapping" Trump Tower during the election, journalists have pressed the issue seeking for any type of information to validate the claim.

During a press conference last week, journalists confronted Spicer on the issue, simply asking "when can we trust the president?"

According to Spicer it is easy to know when to trust the President.

"If he is not joking, of course," was his response.

Fair enough Spicer, but does that make it the public's job to distinguish whether or not the President is joking every time he mindlessly tweets something in the middle of the night?

Apparently journalists and Americans missed the

fact that President Trump had "wire tapping" in quotes in his tweet, therefore meaning he wasn't actually referring to wiretapping, just surveillance in general. So why wasn't that what was tweeted?

There are other ways to conduct surveillance according to Kellyanne Conway, a counselor to the President.

Conway stated in an interview with Mike Kelly that wiretapping meant a variety of different types of surveillance, including microwaves being used as cameras.

Her claim of microwave surveillance was mocked and ridiculed by many due to its lack of being factual. When pressed about her answer on CNN with Chris Cuomo, Conway corrected herself stating, "Chris, I'm not Inspector Gadget. I don't believe people are using the microwaves to spy on the Trump campaign." Then what do you believe Conway?

The problem with Trump and his administration is that they do not know how to communicate.

Even Trump rated himself and his administration a generous "C" when it comes to their ability to communicate to the public. But the President's job is to reassure those of his actions and plans through effective communication that is understood without the ability to be questioned for more clarity.

If we can't tell when Trump is joking or not, then I highly doubt foreign leaders can either.

Trump and his administration had little to no evidence that Obama had actually "wire tapped" him during the campaign.

The accusation itself on twitter is an example of Trump generating "fake news" while distracting journalist's from pressing issues such as budget plans, health care reforms, and so on, when we should be discussing issues with more precedence.

Instead we are bombarded with illogical rhetoric from the President wasting time trying to figure out if he's joking or being serious.

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I support Cuomo's Free Tuition Plan

By KYLE PRATT
Opinion Editor

As Saint Rose students were sitting back, relaxing, and enjoying their spring(ish) break, those that didn't block out school entirely may have noticed an email come into their inboxes on March 10 from Lisa Haley-Thomson.

The passionate email was a call to action for Saint Rose students to speak out as the New York State Assembly debated Governor Andrew Cuomo's plan to make public college tuition free for students whose families' yearly income is less than \$125,000 a year.

While I applaud the college's effort to encourage political action, the email seemed to ignore the fact that some students, including myself, may disagree.

"You know what is best for you," Thomson said, "When you are able to make your own choices, you are much more likely to succeed."

As a public college student who supports Governor Cuomo's plan, this was concerning.

First, I think public colleges should be tuition free, which means I apparently don't know what's best for me.

Second, the college is advocating for more "choice," just semesters after significantly limiting the choice of programs students who attend Saint Rose can study in. To say the governor is serving as a hindrance to students' choice is a bit hypocritical.

If students are "more likely to succeed" with more choices, then it seems to me that limiting the choice of programs would be counterintuitive.

If anything, having free colleges in the state of New York would increase competition, potentially driving down the cost of higher education throughout the entire region,

which, of course, private colleges would not like to see, given that they need money to survive.

Cuomo's plan could upset that trend.

The email was written under the assumption that everyone receiving it was in agreement. On a campus riddled with Bernie Sanders stickers, and in an area he won handily in the Democratic Primary, this assumption is likely incorrect.

The focal point of Sanders' campaign was the idea of tuition free public college. This goal was then integrated into the official Democratic Party platform on which Hillary Clinton who also won the city, ran.

The yearly cost for tuition at Saint Rose is just under \$30,000, so it is understandable that the college would feel threatened by public college removing tuition, and they have the full right to publically make their opinion on the topic known.

After all, Cuomo's program could hurt enrollment at Saint Rose, where finances are already a major troublesome. However, a problem arises when a college assumes all of their students think alike.

Thomson's email does just that, and it goes a step further by suggesting to students how they should think.

Yes, it is good to have choices. I had the choice between public and private college, and I chose private.

However, too many low income families are not given the choice to send their children to any college, public or private. Many cannot afford \$30,000 a year, even with scholarships and tuition assistance.

I apologize, Saint Rose, but I am a private college student who supports free public higher education, and I'm not alone.



The Chronicle would like to remind its readers that any thoughts or ideas expressed in the Opinions section are those of the author, not of the Chronicle. If you feel we have at any point made a mistake, or inadvertently offended a member of our audience, we gladly accept letters to the editor. Guidelines are printed on page A2.

Men's Baseball on the Road

Golden Knights Drop Six of Seven Games During Spring Break

By **LOGAN RIPLEY**
Sports Editor

Though the trip to warmer weather was a break for most students at Saint Rose, the men's baseball team had multiple matchups to prepare for in North and South Carolina.

Saint Rose started their trip the Saturday before break in Florence, South Carolina, losing three close

ones to number twelve Francis Marion.

They then continued on to face number three USC-Aiken and dropped one there before losing to Claflin also the next day.

Arriving in Cary, NC the Golden Knights participated in the Division II Challenge at USA Baseball National Training Center.

They would win their only game of the trip against

Dominican 8-4 on Mar. 10.

They would then lose two close games, falling 7-5 to Saint Augustine's and 3-2 to Winston-Salem State.

For the first of the two games on Mar. 11, Saint Rose was hot with the bats scoring five runs.

Freshmen outfielder Ernie Geraci highlighted the Saint Rose lineup, going to the dish four times and coming away with three hits and

two runs scored.

St. Augustine's would come away with the victory as Timothy Carter earned the save and Rickey Rice the win, while Steven Burke earned the loss in the first of two for the Golden Knights.

The second game verse Winston-Salem State featured less contact from the plate.

Down two in the eighth freshman second baseman Andrew Pedone singled in fellow freshman Anthony Scheller to lower the deficit to one run.

Down one, Saint Rose couldn't overcome it, ending 1-2-3 in the ninth to the Rams.

ing 1-2-3 in the ninth to the Rams.

Seth Reeves earned the win for Winston-Salem State, while Michael Pastore took the loss for Saint Rose.

Saint Rose finished their southern swing 1-6 and 1-11 overall on the season.

The Golden Knights will hope to begin a winning streak Wednesday Mar. 22 as they face off against Saint Thomas Aquinas in Sparkill, NY.

*Want to write for Sports?
Contact Sports Editor
Logan Ripley at
ripley1680@strose.edu.*

The College of Saint Rose

CAREER CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

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Monday, March 20

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DEADLINE: Sunday, March 26

Chemist Aides for Summer '17

The New York State Department of Health anticipates approval for 9 seasonal Chemist Aide positions within the Wadsworth Center. Responsibilities vary according to the assignment, and duties may include: assisting in the collection and analysis of data, operation of laboratory equipment, sample and reagent preparation, general laboratory maintenance, and special projects.
See eCareerCenter Job ID 34325
Resume/Cover Letter Deadline: Thursday, April 6



Freshman Infielder Brandon Wilson at the plate.



By **LOGAN RIPLEY**
Sports Editor

The official start of the NCAA March Madness Tournament doesn't begin with the first round but rather selection Sunday.

Many teams fought on the bubble to get into this year's tournament that featured no true dominant team.

There would be no 16 over one upset this year as all escaped with wins in the first round. Villanova ran over Mount St. Mary's 76-56; Gonzaga beat South Dakota St. 66-46; UNC defeated Texas Southern 103-64; and Kansas throttled UC Davis 100-62.

Those teams all performed to everyone's liking and did what everyone expected them too. But others in the bracket didn't have the same fate.

Six seed Southern Methodist University was upended by 11 seed University of Southern California by one point 66-65. Many predicted SMU to be out

By **JONAS MILLER**
Co-Executive Editor

The second round did what everyone hoped the first round would. By Sunday evening, many a brackets had been busted. Fans across the country glued themselves to the couch to watch their team prevail, or fail.

In the east, Baylor and Florida did as they were supposed to, with the bears knocking off underdog USC, and the Gators dominating five-seeded Virginia.

Unfortunately, it didn't work out too well for every team in the eastern corner of the bracket. Two-seed Duke, a heavy favorite to win it all this year, fell to Seven-seed South Carolina, but this wasn't the first bracket buster of the sec-

FIRST ROUND

into the second round and even into the sweet sixteen.

Another team with a similar outcome was sixth seed Maryland as their underperforming season translated right into a loss to number eleven Xavier 76-65.

Even though some picked this upset, because of injuries to Creighton Universities best player, University of Rhode Island beat the six seed handedly, 84-72.

Ten seed Wichita St. beat seven seed Dayton 64-58, in a game that wasn't too pretty to watch.

The Shockers came away with the victory using their hard-nosed defense that many know about, but their offense has improved since last season.

Led by a balanced attack on the offensive side and a strong man to man defense Wichita St. can beat anyone, and will be asked to in the second round when they face off against number two Kentucky Wildcats.

Middle Tennessee was a team with champion pedigree, making the tournament last year and beating Michigan St. Even though they have some of the same players, their transfer from last year has been the driving force.

Forward JaCorey Williams averaged 17 points and seven boards on the season but struggled from the field against Minnesota.

Though he carried them all season, senior Reggie Upshaw made shots when they needed him most.

Leading the charge in the final three minutes Upshaw's 19 points on seven of thirteen shots for the game sealed the upset.

Another noteworthy win was six seed Butler over thirteen seed Winthrop 76-64.

Though a lower seed won it's a big deal because they have an easier road into the sweet sixteen.

SECOND ROUND

ond round.

On Thursday, Top-Seeded Villanova lost ion shocking fashion to the eight seed wisconsin on a last second bucket from the badgers top player, Nigel Hayes.

In the west, one-sed Gonzaga won a hard fought battle with first-time dancers Northwestern, and Xavier took down the large and in charge Seminoles from Florida State.

Saint Mary's and Notre Dame drew the short sticks in the west, losing to powerhouse teams from Arizona and West Virginia respectively.

In the south and midwest, everything played out as people expected.

North Carolina stole one from Arkansas, holding the Razorbacks scoreless int he last three minutes of the game. Oregon escaped a rowdy Rhode Island team with a three point victory, while Purdue took advantage of a poor shooting performance from Iowa State.

The biggest shocker in the south came at the expense of two-seed Louisville as they lost to a sleeper team from Michigan who might have what it takes to go all the way as a seven-seed, something rarely done.

The second round was eventful to say the least, the Sweet Sixteen games begin Thursday, and we can only hope for more of the same.